JOINT RELEASE Greenwich Board of Education and Town of Greenwich, Greenwich, CT

Friday, March 16, 2012

GREENWICH HIGH SCHOOL FIELDS UPDATE AND PROTOCOL FOR USE

All Fields Are Open!

Highlights: All fields at the High School are open for the spring season:

- The site continues to be safe for its current use (high school and athletic fields).
- Interim Remedial Measures (called IRMs) were completed in the fall to remove shallow soil in several areas surrounding the athletic fields. Fencing was also installed to limit access to certain areas while the environmental study of the site continues.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Board of Education (BOE) and Town Department of Public Works (DPW) are jointly managing the Site and athletic field operations during the continuing environmental study of the Site.
- The regulatory agencies requested the BOE and Town to establish certain protocols to be followed for continued use of the athletic fields.

Introduction

The State of Connecticut's Departments of Public Health (DPH) and Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have been engaged with the BOE and Town throughout the environmental study of the Site and during review of the athletic fields use. Following review of the proposed IRMs plans and completion reports, these agencies provided concurrence for all fields to be reopened for the spring season. The regulatory agencies required the BOE, DPR and DPW to implement operating and maintenance protocols for continued use of the athletic fields.

What are the protocols and who is responsible?

The protocols include certain maintenance procedures for the Site and periodic inspection of the IRMs work completed during the fall of 2011. The inspection includes review of the condition of the natural turf fields, the mulch that was placed in several locations on the Site, and the condition of the fencing. The DPR and Athletics Department will conduct site inspections at least once every two weeks.

What is the responsibility of the groups that use the athletic fields?

Reopening the fields for use was an important milestone. It's important that the conditions the regulatory agencies have required for continuing use be met. These conditions require the cooperation and involvement of our school teams and other users of the fields. Please stay out of fenced-off areas and follow directions provided on the signs posted at the fields.

Balls or Other Equipment in the Fenced Areas

We understand balls and other equipment may end up in the fenced areas on Site. Please do not climb fences or access these secured areas in any manner. A lost and found container will be placed adjacent to the fenced off areas for balls or other equipment that end up within the fenced areas. We encourage all participants to clearly and indelibly mark their equipment to make potential retrieval easy.

For all information requests, please contact:

Kim Eves, Greenwich Public Schools
Director of Communications
203-625-7415 or kim_eves@greenwich.k12.ct.us